

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12 and 14-18 remain in this application.

Double Patenting

Upon Notice of Allowability of the present application, claims 16 and 17 of Application No. 10/829,501 will be canceled.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claims have been amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for roughened.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,443,652 to Scarola et al.

The '652 patent does not describe a method of cleaning thermoplastic resinous products or a device for cleaning thermoplastic resins that includes the use of a vessel having a roughened surface as now claimed.

The '652 patent describes a plastic cleaning apparatus having a container, which is constructed of a durable surface such as carbon steel, galvanized steel and the like and in a preferred embodiment the container is stainless steel (See column 4, lines 37-42). However, the '652 patent is silent with respect to the surface roughness. In this regard, the Examiner asserts that the surface of the container made of stainless steel is inherently roughened and the specific roughness value of the surface does not provide any further limitation to the method claim, and thus is not given a significant patentable weight. We respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The '652 patent neither teaches nor suggests such roughening of the surface. Further, the value of surface roughness of normally marketed stainless steel is different from the limitation of "40 to 2000 μm ".

Surface roughness is an important aspect of the invention. Example C (pages 65-67 in the specification, in which the value of surface roughness is "50 to 100 μm ") and Comparative Example F (page 70, in which the surface is not roughened) provide a comparison of roughened smooth surface. From this comparison, it becomes apparent that the claimed value of surface roughness effectively contributes to remove or clean foreign matters.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

The '652 patent does not describe a ratio between the weight of the crushed flakes and water as claimed.

As shown in the Table below, the ratios at Examples 1 and 2 of the '652 patent are quite different from the claimed ratio.

Claimed	Crushed Pieces	Water	Ratio: 1/0.3-2.0
Example 1	800 pounds of polyethylene chips = 360 Kg	575 gallons = 2,173 liters	Ratio: 1/6
Example 2	150 grams PET chips	1 liter	Ratio: 1/6.7

Further, with respect to the temperature, 80 °C in Example 1 and 95°C in Example 2 are shown in the '652 patent. These temperatures also are different from the claimed temperature 70°C or less. The claimed temperature of 70°C or less is an important aspect of the invention as described at page 24, line 25 to page 25, line 17 of the specification.

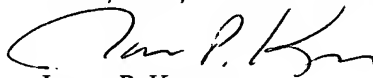
CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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